Rhiannan Jackson’s Philosophy Statement

*“Experience is the teacher of all things” - Julius Caesar*

There are many expectations that I had as a student and growing up. One of the being to: Respect others; the most important rule that I believe should apply to all human beings and should be the first thing that is taught to any child. It’s hard to succeed in life if you don’t respect others because then people are less likely to respect you in return. For me, it doesn’t matter if you are a kind person or a rude one; everyone deserves to be treated with respect. I would never want someone to treat me badly, so why should I treat anyone else with disrespect? I think respect is not only for the receiver, but for the giver as well; it makes you a better person if you have the skill to blindly respect everyone.

I want to be the kind of teacher that students look back and remember the impact that I had on them like my childhood teachers had on me. The teachers who shared their experiences and showed us students why the information we learned was important are exactly why I wanted to be a teacher. I hope my students remember the smile I often had and how much I cared about them, not only as my students, but also as a whole person.

I am outgoing, easy to talk to, and I love kids! I think that being outgoing is such a great characteristic that I have because it will help me when I’m teaching to be able to get my students excited about anything we are doing in the class. Having fun is a huge expectation of mine and being outgoing will help me to find ways to get students having fun as much as possible. Being easy to talk to is also important when working with kids because I think they are more responsive to adults when they feel comfortable with them. I will be making it clear that my classroom is a safe place and giving students a voice to be able to express their thoughts and ideas. I know for me, I learn best when I feel like I can share out and be engaged in discussions with my peers and I think it is good for students to not only learn in that way, but also have a sense of community where they feel like they can talk to each other as well. I also am an athlete and I love being active and learning about my own personal health. Becoming a health teacher was so important for me because I realized that I want to share my love of exercise with students, but I also want to be able to help students to find their strengths and incorporate that into living a healthy lifestyle.

I’ve come to understand how important it is to get to know each and every one of my students so that I can best help them achieve their goals. Lesson planning becomes very important in making sure that I am reaching all of my students. An article, written by Pat Burke Guild on Diversity, talks about how students are not only individuals with different styles of learning, but they also have different backgrounds and cultures. These aspects impact how each student learns and how they will perform within the classroom. Part of a teacher’s main responsibility in the classroom is to not only try and teach to every type of learner, but to also engage them in a meaningful way. The goal is for all students to be successful and to have equal opportunities in the classroom.

I hope to contribute a positive, relaxed and fun environment in the schools that I teach in in the future. A philosopher, named Augustine, once said, “Education is for happiness”. If we aren’t teaching for happiness and our students aren’t learning for happiness then why do it? I believe happiness should be the overall goal for all people and I hope to foster that belief in my students.